

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 1~~. A continuous media playback system controlled over a distributed communication system comprising:

~~a distributed communications system;~~

at least one playback control device that is located at a playback location, that is connected to [[said]] ~~a distributed communications system~~ and that includes an output device, memory ~~to store that stores~~ digital media files and a continuous play program, and a controller ~~that outputs to output~~ said digital media files to said output device according to said continuous play program, wherein said media files include at least one media file of a type selected from the group consisting of audio, video and announcements;

wherein a computer [[that]] is remotely located from said playback location and [[that]] communicates with said distributed communications system; and

wherein a web server [[that]] is located remotely from said computer and [[that]] is connected to said distributed communications system and to a master library of said digital media files, wherein said computer includes a user interface that allows a playback manager to access said web server via said distributed communications system to modify said continuous play program for each playback control device;

wherein said computer is provided with one or more executable files from said web server to allow said playback manager to select one or more media files for audition without affecting said continuous play program.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 2~~.—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 1, wherein said computer includes a browser module for accessing said web server and wherein said web server transmits executable files to said computer for creating said continuous play program.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 3.~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said executable files include one or more executable files of at least one type selected from the group consisting of ActiveX® components, Java Applets® and Java Script®.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 5.~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select and arrange custom playlists by selecting a plurality of said digital media files from said master library and by allowing at least one of sequencing said digital media files and randomly playing said digital media files.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 6.~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select a plurality of predetermined collections of said digital media files, to allocate percentages of time for playing said collections and to create a composite collection that randomly selects said digital media files from said collections based on said allocated percentages.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 7.~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 6, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections and to adjust the frequency at which said at least one of said digital media files is played in said composite collection.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 8.~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 6, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections and to prevent said at least one of said digital media files from playing in said composite collection.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 9.~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 6,

wherein said executable files allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections and to prevent said at least one of said digital media files from playing during preselected times in said composite collection.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 10~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 6, wherein said executable files allow said computer to assign said predetermined collections to a time-based schedule that forms part of said continuous play program.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 11~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 10, wherein said executable files allow said computer to assign said composite collection to said time-based schedule.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 12~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 10, wherein a smallest time unit provided in said time-based schedule can be varied.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 13~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 12, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select and arrange custom collections by allowing at least one of selecting a plurality of said digital media files from said master library and by sequencing said digital media files and randomly playing said digital media files.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 14~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said executable files allow said computer to access continuous play programs for a plurality of said playback control devices.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 15~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 14, wherein said executable files allow said computer to group at least two playback control devices and to create a common continuous play program for said at least two of said playback control devices.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 16~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2,

wherein said executable files allow said computer to display a digital media file that is currently being played by at least one of said at least one playback control devices and at least one digital media file that follows said digital media file that is currently being played.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 17~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 16, wherein said web server delivers at least one digital media file to said computer as a streaming media file for output to said output device connected to said computer.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 18~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 1, wherein said web server stores a profile for each playback control device.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 19~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select business hours to operate each playback control device.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 20~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said web server includes a password logon security module for accessing said continuous play programs.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 21~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said master library further contains at least one file of a type selected from the group consisting of digital announcement files, video files, and text/graphics files.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 22~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 21, wherein said executable files allow said computer to schedule at least one of said digital announcement files in said continuous play broadcast of each playback control device.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 23~~—The continuous play broadcast system of claim 22, wherein said executable files allow said computer to schedule at least one file of a type selected from the group consisting of said digital announcement files and said video files in said

continuous play broadcast of each playback control device on a recurring basis.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 24~~—A method of programming at least one playback control device located at a playback location in a continuous media playback system controlled over a distributed communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing a web site via a distributed communications system using a user interface of a computer including a web browser that are remote from said web site and that are remotely located from said playback location; [[and]]

accessing and arranging at least one of digital media files and predetermined collections of said digital media files to create or modify a continuous play program for said playback control device via said web site, wherein said media files include at least one file of a type selected from the group consisting of audio, video and announcements; and

permitting a user to access one or more digital media files using said user interface to audition the one or more digital media files without affecting the continuous play program;

wherein each playback control device is connected to said distributed communications system.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 25~~—The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of: transmitting executable files from said web server to said computer for creating said continuous play program.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 26~~—The method of claim 24, wherein said executable files include one or more executable files of at least one type selected from the group consisting of ~~are at least one~~ of ActiveX® components, Java Applets®, and Java Script®.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 28~~—The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of: selecting and arranging custom playlists by selecting a plurality of said digital media files from a master library and by allowing at least one operation selected from the group consisting

of sequencing said digital media files and randomly playing said digital media files.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 29~~. The method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:
selecting a plurality of predetermined collections of said digital media files;
allocating percentages of time for playing said collections; and
creating a composite collection that randomly selects said digital media files from said
predetermined collections based on said allocated percentages.
30. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 30~~. The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
selecting at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections; and
adjusting the frequency at which said at least one of said digital media files is played in
said composite collection.
31. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 31~~. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:
allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said
predetermined collections; and
preventing said at least one of said digital media files from playing in said composite
collection.
32. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 32~~. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:
selecting at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections; and
preventing said at least one of said digital media files from playing during preselected
times of at least one of a day, a month and a year in said composite collection.
33. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 33~~. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:
assigning said predetermined collections to a time-based schedule that forms part of said
continuous play program.
34. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 34~~. The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of:
assigning said composite collection to said time-based schedule.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 35~~—The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of: providing a smallest time unit in said time-based schedule; and allowing said smallest time unit to be varied.
36. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 36~~—The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of: selecting and arranging custom playlists by selecting a plurality of said digital media files from a master library using said computer and by allowing at least one of sequencing said digital media files using said computer and randomly playing said digital media files.
37. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 37~~—The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of: allowing said computer to access continuous play programs for a plurality of said playback control devices using said executable files.
38. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 38~~—The method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of: grouping at least two playback control devices; and creating a common continuous play program for said at least two playback control devices.
39. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 39~~—The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of: displaying a digital audio file that is currently being played by at least one playback control device; and displaying at least one digital audio file that follows said digital media file that is currently being played.
40. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 40~~—The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of: delivering at least one digital media file to said computer as a streaming media file for output to an output device connected to said computer.
41. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 41~~—The method of claim 24, wherein said web server stores

a profile for each playback control device.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 42~~. The method of claim 25, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select business hours to operate each playback control device.
43. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 43~~. The method of claim 24, wherein said web server includes password logon security for accessing said continuous play programs.
44. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 44~~. The method of either claim 28 or claim 36, wherein said master library contains at least one of digital announcement files and audio files.
45. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 45~~. The method of claim 25, wherein said executable files allow said computer to schedule at least one of said digital announcement files in said continuous play program of each playback control device.
46. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 46~~. The method of claim 25, wherein said executable files allow said computer to schedule at least one of said digital announcement files in said continuous play broadcast of each playback control device on a recurring basis.
47. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 47~~. The continuous play broadcast system of claim 1, wherein said computer creates or modifies continuous play programs for a plurality of said playback control devices.
48. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 48~~. The continuous play broadcast system of claim 1, wherein said computer groups at least two playback control devices and creates a common continuous play program for said at least two playback control devices.
49. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 49~~. The method of claim 24, further comprising creating or modifying continuous play programs for a plurality playback control devices using said computer.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 50~~ The method of claim 24, further comprising:
grouping at least two playback control devices; and
creating a common continuous play program for said at least two playback control devices.
51. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 51~~ The continuous play broadcast system of claim 1, wherein each playback control device includes a master library of digital media files.
52. (Currently Amended) ~~Claim 52~~ The method of claim 24, wherein each playback control device includes a library of digital media files.
53. (New) The continuous play broadcast system of claim 2, wherein said executable files permit said computer to control playback volume for said continuous play program.
54. (New) The continuous play broadcast system of claim 53, wherein said executable files permit said computer to control said playback volume as a function of at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of: time, type of location, and area within a type of location.
55. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising,
controlling playback volume for said continuous play program.
56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said controlling playback volume comprises controlling playback volume as a function of at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of: time, type of location, and area within a type of location.
57. (New) A continuous media playback system controlled over a distributed communication system comprising:
at least one playback control device that is located at a playback location, that is connected to a distributed communications system and that includes an output device, memory to

store digital media files and a continuous play program, and a controller to output said digital media files to said output device according to said continuous play program, wherein said media files include at least one media file of a type selected from the group consisting of audio, video and announcements;

wherein a computer is remotely located from said playback location and communicates with said distributed communications system; and

wherein a web server is located remotely from said computer and is connected to said distributed communications system and to a master library of said digital media files, wherein said computer includes a user interface that allows a playback manager to access said web server via said distributed communications system to modify said continuous play program for each playback control device;

wherein said computer is provided with one or more executable files from said web server to allow said playback manager to adapt said continuous play program with schedules corresponding to different days and sets of days within a year.